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## MISS FREEMAN REPLIES TO WORCESTER

(Reprinted from the Philippine *Free Press* of September 2, 1911. Published by request of Miss Freeman.)

Under the caption, "A Dip Into an Official Report," the *Free Press* recently published a number of extracts from the last annual report of Secretary Dean C. Worcester. In one of those extracts there appeared some rather caustic remarks about Miss A. M. Freeman, a former nurse of the Civil Hospital, as follows:

"A determined effort was made to enforce discipline among the nurses, most of whom were faithful, efficient, and hard-working employees who were entirely willing to conform to any reasonable rules relative to their work. Unfortunately, there were among them a few individuals whose resignations it proved necessary to accept, while in one instance a nurse was removed. As was anticipated, attacks upon the administration of the civil hospital resulted. In this manner, Miss A. M. Freeman, a former nurse of the hospital, who had left the service, was particularly active. Under an assumed name, she addressed to me a letter viciously attacking the civil hospital. In it she represented herself to be a government employee from Washington who was visiting the Philippines for the purpose of making investigations into the conduct of the government, and who had secured admission into the hospital as a patient in order to watch its operations.

"Her conduct in this matter has not heretofore been made public, but as she has continued to fill columns in one of the daily newspapers of Manila with complaints against the hospital and charges against its officers and employees, has written to nursing journals in the United States, and has repeatedly attempted to dissuade nurses from coming to these islands, I think it proper now to state the facts."

In reply to the foregoing the *Free Press* has received the following communication from Miss Freeman:

"MANILA, August 21, 1911.

"DEAR EDITOR OF *Free Press*: The fact that you published a part of the report of the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of War has come under my notice, and I beg to thank you, as it enables me to ask if you will kindly publish my statement to the effect that the remarks of the Secretary of the Interior are absolutely without foundation.

"Any person in Manila who wishes to do so, may write to any or all of the 'nursing journals' in America, and ascertain that on no occasion whatever did I write to any of those journals or to any person connected with said journals. All of my communications on the subject of the hospital and the nurses were addressed either to the president or the secretary of the Spanish-American War Nurses.

"Next, with regard to anonymous letters. The Secretary of the Interior once accused me of writing one (1) such letter to him. As soon as convenient I shall give you, for publication, a copy of my answer to said letter. I also have thought it best that 'this matter has not heretofore been made public.' Most certainly in his official capacity said Secretary of the Interior should have given both anonymous letters, and also all complaints in a certain daily paper, a most thorough and searching investigation.

"Surely the Secretary of the Interior does not mean to insinuate in his

report to the Secretary of War that there was anything 'cowardly' in my attitude in regard to the hospital and its affairs. I take great pleasure, however, in the open and gratuitous compliment paid me in my being given credit for controlling the whole nursing profession in America, and thus preventing nurses from coming to the civil government. These things should surely have been properly investigated. 'If' the statements made by the Secretary of the Interior are true, then that gentleman has failed in his duty as a public official. However, the secretary has been quite a number of years in the Philippines, and may have dreamed a great deal on his many trips of investigation which said trips 'apparently' interfered very considerably when investigations in Manila were desired not only by myself but by the public in general.

"Thanking you in advance, Mr. Editor, for space for this item, written in self-defense, I am,

"Respectfully yours,

ANNA M. FREEMAN."

## APPRECIATION

### I

DEAR EDITOR: I have been in the country for the past year and do not know what I would have done without my JOURNAL. I kept up with everything by its aid.

Kentucky.

E. A. T.

### II

DEAR EDITOR: Not long ago I was called upon to relieve another nurse, who was interested in her work, thoughtful, and tactful. Later, when discussing nursing affairs, I asked her whether she took the JOURNAL (many graduate and registered nurses do not). She replied that she did, that she could not work without it, and that she had the last number with her. I knew from her reply that she made a study of her work, and that was afterward proved to me by her work itself. Every time that a number of the JOURNAL arrives, when I get time to read it I realize in what close touch it keeps one with all the doings of the nursing world. It gives knowledge of the newest and most advanced methods in nursing, makes one wish to attend every meeting of the American Nurses' Association, and those of her own state, and brings one in contact with the women of her profession who are, I think, the most intelligent in the world.

What can be more inspiring than the editorials, in which nothing has ever been said that is weak or illogical? How appreciative they are of the difficulties which we, as individuals, meet in our work, of our individual efforts, and of the results that are accomplished in many ways through nursing! The editor's recognition of these things is a source of inspiration to me and must be to hundreds of other readers. And are we not all helped by Miss Dock, Miss Wald, Miss Scovil, Miss McIsaac, Miss Damer, Miss Nutting, and many others? I feel the extent of their assistance each time a copy of the magazine arrives.

Tennessee.

EDITH C. HUNTINGTON, R.N.